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Thailand

Agricultural Situation

Weekly Rice Price Update

2008

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Report Highlights:

Domestic and export prices of premium white rice increased slightly despite the weakening Thai baht. Many exporters did not provide quotations this week as their domestic suppliers, including millers, have closed for the long new-year holiday this week. Trading activities will resume next week with domestic and export prices expected to open higher in anticipation of limited exportable supplies of new-crop white and fragrant rice.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Dec. 30):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	770	785	785	-	760	740	-	768	768
WR 100 B	555	570	565	540	540	540	550	551	549
PB 5%	-	580	560	540	540	555	530	551	548
WR 5%	525	560	555	530	530	510	530	534	533
WR 10%	510	-	-	-	-	503	-	507	507
WR 15%	455	-	-	-	-	480	-	468	468
WR 25%	425	-	-	-	-	420	-	423	423
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A 1 SUP	280	-	-	-	270	295	300	286	281
A 1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters, Exchange rate: 34.8 – 35.0 baht/U.S.\$									

Market Tone

Domestic and export prices of premium white rice increased slightly despite the weakening Thai baht to around 35 baht, compared to 34.3 in the previous week. Many exporters did not provide quotations this week as their domestic suppliers, including millers, have closed for the long new-year holiday this week. Trading activities will resume next week with domestic and export prices expected to open higher in anticipation of limited exportable supplies of new-crop white and fragrant rice. The current 2008/09 main-crop intervention program aggressively absorbed approximately 4.0 million tons of paddy valued at 29 billion baht (\$833 million) due to intervention prices which are 15-20 percent higher than current market prices. In addition, foreign buyers are reportedly expected to source Thai white rice in the beginning of next year in anticipation of limited seasonal exportable supplies from Vietnam. In addition, Thai parboiled rice exporters will continue to fulfill outstanding contracts and expect new orders from African countries early next year as Indian parboiled rice supplies are still limited under the export ban.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO	YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	%
Nov 2	54,637	64,757	6,754	5,005	36.4
Nov 9	81,977	85,252	6,836	5,209	31.2
Nov 16	87,896	73,981	6,997	5,405	29.4
Nov 23	51,310	68,955	7,049	5,614	25.6
Nov 30	55,287	69,118	7,104	5,829	22.0
Dec 7	68,265	65,689	7,172	5,977	20.0
Dec 14	91,039	66,475	7,263	6,162	18.0
Dec 21	84,971	74,891	7,348	6,368	15.4
Dec 28	104,710	87,246	7,453	6,570	13.4

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Dec. 22-27, 2008 totaled 104,710 tons, up 19,739 tons from the previous week, and up 17,464 tons from the four-week moving average of 87,246 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Dec. 28, 2008 totaled 7,453,060 tons, as compared with 6,569,860 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Dec. 19, 2008, amounted to 9,782,044 tons, up 7.1 percent from 9,133,226 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Dec. 8-12, Dec. 15-19, and Dec. 22-26, 2008 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Dec. 8-12	Dec. 15-19	Dec. 22-26
Weekly sales	90,756	83,639	63,287
4 week sum	271,899	324,860	301,966
4 week mov. avg.	67,975	81,215	75,492
Total weekly sales	6,536,591	6,620,230	6,683,517

End of Report.